



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KANSAS MAN INDICTED FOR USING A COMPUTER IN ATTEMPT TO ENTICE A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lawrence, Kan., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today on charges related to attempting to entice a minor to engage in illicit sexual activity.

Tyler M. Leach, 23, of Lawrence, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Leach** on March 11, 2005.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that, between March 8 and 10, 2005, **Leach** used the Internet to attempt to persuade a minor to engage in illicit sexual activity. According to the indictment, **Leach** attempted to engage in sexual activity for which he could be charged under Missouri law with statutory rape and statutory sodomy.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Leach** traveled across the state line on March 10, 2005, for the purpose of attempting to engage in illicit sexual conduct with another person.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Leach** contacted an undercover law enforcement officer, whom he believed was a 14-year-old girl, through an Internet chatroom and discussed sexual acts. Through e-mail and instant messaging, **Leach** later made arrangements to meet the girl at her home when he thought her parents would be at work. He was arrested when he arrived for that meeting on March 10, 2005.

In a search of **Leach's** vehicle, the affidavit says, law enforcement officers found a list of Web sites, many with titles that indicate an interest in underage females. They also found screen names and information about other individuals, including two 12-year-old girls **Leach** met on-line.

Count Three of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Leach** to forfeit to the government any property used to commit the alleged offenses, including a Dell Dimension 4700 computer.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Phillips. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow